



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced for Toddler's Murder and Trying to Kill Child's Mother

A man was sentenced today to 25 years to life in state prison for fatally stabbing a 2-year-old girl and attacking her pregnant mother three years ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Last month, Lataz Gray (dob 7/30/93) pleaded no contest to one count each of second-degree murder and attempted murder. He also admitted using a deadly and dangerous weapon, a knife.

Deputy District Attorney Irene Lee of the Family Violence Division prosecuted the case.

On May 2, 2016, Gray got into a domestic dispute with his 22-year-old girlfriend at their home in South Los Angeles. The defendant began stabbing her, the prosecutor said. Her 2-year-old daughter, Maliaya T., came from a different room and tried to protect her mother, the prosecutor added.

The girl was fatally stabbed and Gray fled the scene. He was arrested the following day.

Case BA446398 was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.